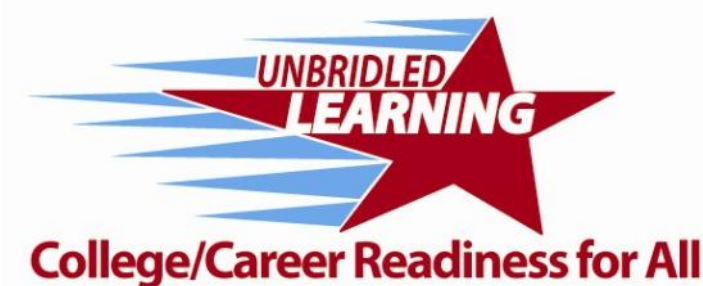




PROGRAM REVIEW UPDATE

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), in partnership with AdvancED, is developing an electronic format for completing the Program Reviews. The AdvancED Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools (ASSIST) will house the Program Reviews. It will be a place where schools can document the evidence used and guide them through “next steps” and program improvement. Districts also will have access to ASSIST to facilitate and monitor the Program Reviews with their schools. This tool was showcased at the Innovation Summit, held December 1-2 at the Lexington Convention Center. Schools that attended the Innovation Summit received their access codes. For those schools not in attendance, AdvancED will send the access code to the principal of the school, along with a link to webinar registration where ASSIST will be demonstrated. KDE will send a follow-up e-mail, notifying all Dis-



trict Assessment Coordinators and superintendents that access codes have been disseminated. ASSIST will be available to schools sometime in mid-February.

ASSIST® Resources for Kentucky Schools and Districts

All Kentucky schools will have the ability to complete the required Program Reviews in the new Web-based school improvement and accreditation management system, ASSIST®, beginning in February 2012.

Submission of a Program Review Report in ASSIST® will be required by May 2012. The report will include program review results for practical living/career studies, arts and humanities, and

writing.

To assist teachers and administrators responsible for their schools' Program Reviews, an informational webinar will be held on December 13 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET.

Go to <https://www1.gotomeeti.ng.com/register/188696689> to register. A second webinar will be held on December 14 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. ET. Go to <https://www1.gotomeeti.ng.com/register/736274664> to register.

Regional face-to-face training on the Program Review process and ASSIST® tools is being scheduled. Training dates and information will be provided during the above-mentioned webinars.

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Season's Greetings and my most sincere thanks to all who bring the arts to the students of Kentucky. Your tireless efforts and dedication keep the future of the arts in the Commonwealth bright.

Robert Duncan, KDE Arts and Humanities Consultant

Kentucky Arts Organizations Receive NEA Grants



National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), an independent federal agency, recently announced awards to five Kentucky organizations to fund arts education and arts programming. All five of the nonprofit arts organizations also receive operational support from the Kentucky Arts Council through the Kentucky Arts Partnership program.

Actors Theatre of Louisville will receive \$80,000 to support the 36th Annual Humana Festival of New American Plays, a showcase of new theatrical work featuring American playwrights. Actors Theatre will fully produce seven full-length plays, multiple ten-minute plays and an anthology project written by multiple playwrights to be performed by its Acting Apprentice Company.

Appalshop, in Whitesburg, will receive two grants. \$20,000 will support the Appalachian Media Institute, a documentary arts film and radio program for high school stu-

dents. Professional independent filmmakers and media artists will teach students the history, ethics and practice of documentary media, resulting in the production of documentary films and radio programs. \$30,000, proposed on behalf of WMMT-FM, will support *Pick and Bow: Traditional Arts in Community*, a series of afterschool programs that offer instruction in traditional music to students of Appalachia. Additionally the project will provide performance opportunities for students, as well as radio broadcasts of traditional music.

The Louisville Ballet will receive \$20,000 to support the acquisition of *Lady of the Camellias*, by choreographer Val Caniparoli, as part of Louisville Ballet's Repertoire Enhancement Project. *Lady of Camellias* is based on the 1848 novel by Alexandre Dumas and is choreographed to music by Chopin.

Sarabande Books, in Louisville, will receive \$21,000 to support the publication and promotion of collections of short fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry. Scheduled

authors include Rodney Jack, Michael J. Lee, Paula Bohince, T. Fleischmann, Steven Cramer and Elena Passarello.

Yeiser Art Center, in Paducah, will receive \$10,000 to support an artist-in-residence program for visual artists to create and present new work. Artists selected from an open call for submissions will receive a stipend, housing, exhibition and outreach opportunities during their residencies.

To date National Endowment for the Arts, established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities.

The Kentucky Arts Council creates opportunities for Kentuckians to value, participate in and benefit from the arts. Kentucky Arts Council funding is provided by the Kentucky General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Young Artist Concerto Competition

The Paducah Symphony Orchestra and the Murray State University Music Department announce the Young Artist Concerto Competition in 2012.

The competition is divided into two divisions – one for pianists and one for all other orchestral instruments. One performer from each division will receive a \$1,000 cash prize, an invitation to perform as guest soloist with the Paducah Symphony Orchestra during one 2012-2013 Season concert and a music scholarship to Murray State University (if eligible).

The application deadline is January 15, 2012. Application materials can

either be dropped off or postmarked to the PSO Office by January 15, 2012. High school students, grades 9-12 and age 14 by January 1, 2012, are eligible.

An application form, \$40 entry fee and a DVD or CD recording of applicant's performance are required to apply. An electronic recording can also be e-mailed to leighann@paducahsymphony.org.

One movement of a concerto, or equivalent of approximately 15 minutes, for soloists will be performed. The composition must be a solo with standard symphony orchestra accompaniment that is

readily available through commercial sources. Music must be performed from memory.

Prospective entrants and music teachers can request more information and application forms by contacting Leigh Ann Renfro, Artistic Services Manager, at the Paducah Symphony Orchestra at (270) 444-0065 or e-mail at leighann@paducahsymphony.org.

Completed applications will be collected in the PSO Office at 201 Broadway in Paducah. Finalists from each division will be selected to perform live for the Competition Finals, a free event, on February 19, 2012 at Murray State University.

KMEA 26th Annual Marching Band Competition



Photos courtesy of KMEA

Kentucky Department of Education Associate Commissioner Larry Stinson, left, with Class AAA 4th place Garrard County band member and John Fannin, chair of the KMEA Marching Band Committee.



Williamstown High School, Class A 2nd place recipient band.

The Kentucky Music Educators 26th Annual State Marching Band Championship was held on October 29 at the Houchins Industries/L. T. Smith Stadium on the campus of Western Kentucky University. KMEA classifies marching bands based on the size of the schools they represent. Twenty bands appeared in the finals competition, four from each of five classifications. The bands were ranked by six adjudicators who assessed each band's musical performance, visual performance and the effect of the show including its design.

Class A

- Hazard High, Hazard Independent Schools — 4th place
- Murray High, Murray Independent Schools — 3rd place
- Williamstown High, William-

stown Independent — 2nd place

- Beechwood High, Beechwood Independent — Class champion and the Governor's Cup

Class AA

- Glasgow High, Glasgow Independent — 4th place
- Washington County High, Washington County — 3rd place
- Danville High, Danville Independent — 2nd place



(continued on page 4...)



Dunbar High (Fayette Co.), Class AAAA Champion and Governor's Cup recipient band.

2011 KMEA Band Competition



Williamstown High School, Class A 2nd place recipient band.

(...continued from page 3)

- Larue County High — Class champion and the Governor's Cup

Class AAA

- Garrard County High — 4th place
- Russell County High — 3rd place
- Bourbon County High — 2nd place
- Adair County High — Class champion and the Governor's Cup



Adair County High School, AAA Class Champion and Governor's Cup recipient band.



Dunbar High School (Fayette Co.), AAAA Class Champion and Governor's Cup recipient band.

Class AAAA

- West Jessamine High, Jessamine County — 4th place
- John Hardin High, Hardin County — 3rd place
- Grant County High — 2nd place
- Madisonville North-Hopkins High, Hopkins County — Class

champion and the Governor's Cup

Class AAAAA

- Madison Central High, Madison County — 4th place
- Eastern High, Jefferson County — 3rd place
- Lafayette High, Fayette County — 2nd place
- Dunbar High, Fayette County — Class champion and the Governor's Cup

Kentucky Theatre Association Fall Conference

The Kentucky Theatre Association (KTA), which is the state affiliate of American Association of Theatre in Education (AATE), held its annual conference in Madisonville November 11-13. The High School One Act Play Festival, a major completion for Kentucky high schools, brought 14 schools to the Glema Mahr Center for the Performing Arts on the Madisonville campus of the Kentucky Community and Technical College.



Photos courtesy of KTA

Members of the All Star Cast, KTA fall conference 2011.

The plays were performed on Friday and Saturday. KTA's Festival is the state-level event leading to the spring regional festival hosted by the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) at its annual conference in 2012, in Chattanooga, Tn. Schools compete for the opportunity for two productions to represent Kentucky at the SETC Festival in which 10 other southern states will compete.

From the schools performing for first time at KTA's Festival, the judges awarded the distinction of *Best Newcomer* to Garrard County High School. The judges also recognize one performance from each production for excellence; all of the participating students taking home an *All Star Cast* award. Individual performers recognized this year were:

- Mariah Creason, Central Hardin High, Hardin County
- Will Edwards, Sayre School, Lexington
- Rusty Day, Madison Central High, Madison County

- Kasee Arnett, Perry County High
- Heather Benson, Garrard County High
- Josh Stone, Paul Laurence Dunbar High, Fayette County
- Natalie Warren and Katelyn Warren (tied), Taylor County High
- Evan Chthik, School for the Creative and Performing Arts (SCAPA) at Bluegrass, Fayette County
- Andrew James, Bardstown High, Bardstown Independent
- Paige Campbell, Shelby County High
- Garrett Ross, Daviess County High
- Katie Nobel, Corbin High, Corbin Independent
- Issac Settles, Owensboro High, Owensboro Independent
- Lane French, Mercer County High

Additional discretionary judges awards were:

- Best Haunting Presence: the three witches, *Macbeth*, SCAPA
- Best Play Within A Play: *The Tragedy of Pryamus and Thisbe*, Madison Central High
- Best Total Ensemble: the cast of *The Wrestling Season*, P. L. Dunbar High
- Best Sound Design: *2081*, Garrard County High
- Best Visual Gag: *Almost Maine*, Sayre School, Lexington

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- Best Spirit of Inventiveness: *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, Shelby County High
- Most Adorable Costumes: *Deliver Us Not!*, Perry County High

The annual awards for best acting were shared between Corbin High School and Owensboro High School. Corbin High took home Best Supporting Actress, Dakota Dean; Best Supporting Actor, Martin Jones; and Best Actor, Evan Baylor. The award for Best Actress went to Grae Greer of Owensboro High.

The awards for best productions were announced at the closing awards ceremony on Saturday evening. The award for the Second Runner-Up went to the School of the Creative and Performing Arts for *Macbeth*. Owensboro High School's *Women and War* was First Runner-Up, and *Paul's Case* from Corbin High School came in first in the overall competition. Corbin High and Owensboro High will represent Kentucky at the SETC Festival in March 2012. KTA presents the two winning

schools with a cash award to assist with the costs of taking their productions to the regional festival. Chip Egan, a board member of SETC, and SETC staffer Quiana Clark Roland were on hand to congratulate the winning productions and welcome them to the spring festival.

Students also participated in many hands-on workshops both days. They explored such areas of drama as Shakespeare, directing, improvisation, viewpoints and stage combat as well as an informational session about selecting a college. Sessions were led by KTA board members, StageLab of Louisville principle artists and SETC guest Chip Egan.

KTA's annual Professional Development (PD) Day for Teachers brought attendees from as far away as Boyd and McCracken Counties. Teachers explored the elements of dance and drama and strategies to integrate drama with dance and language arts. Also part of the PD offerings were presentations from state and regional organizations with resources for students and teachers. Presenters included Kentucky Department of Education Arts & Humanities Consultant Robert Duncan, Kentucky Arts Council Arts Education Director Rachel Allen, Quiana Clark Roland of the Southeastern Theatre Conference and English Speaking Union Board Member Andy Perry.



The cast of *Paul's Case*, 1st-place winning play by Corbin High School.

In addition to the school competition and professional development events, the conference included a community theatre festival, a new play festival and an award given to an organization or individual recognized for transforming Kentucky through theatre. This year's honoree was Pandora Productions of Louisville for its Youth Project. This project was focused on gay and lesbian teens telling their stories through playwriting exercises; the writing was then crafted together in a script performed by Pandora's professional acting company. The resulting production has been performed as part of Pandora's season and continues to be performed as part of meetings and conferences focused on issues of importance to these students.

The KTA annual conference is held in November of each year, and rotates geographically across the Commonwealth. The 2012 conference will be in central Kentucky. The exact location has yet to be announced. More information can be found at www.theatreky.org.



Students participated in a Stage Combat Workshop.

Made to be Played Exhibit

The exhibit *Made to be Played: Traditional Art of Kentucky Luthiers* will be on display Nov. 17 – Dec. 17 at the Glema Mahr Center for the Arts, 2000 College Drive, Madisonville, Ky.



This special exhibit features the art and traditions of Kentuckians who are considered masters in the making and repairing of guitars, fiddles, banjos, mandolins, dulcimers and other original stringed instruments. *Made to be Played: Traditional Art of Kentucky Luthiers* was first exhibited in 2007 at the Kentucky Artisan Center in Berea and is the

result of years of research and fieldwork by the Kentucky Folklife Program. Since then, it has been on tour throughout the Commonwealth, reaching nearly 30 different sites including arts centers, history centers, libraries, museums, state parks, festivals, colleges and universities.

“The Glema Center is thrilled to be able to coordinate this exhibit with our annual Elementary Student Art Exhibit,” said Brad Downall, executive director of the Glema Mahr Center for the Arts. “The students are to create art based on the theme of music. The two separate exhibits should complement each other nicely.”

Beginning Nov. 17, the exhibit will be open for viewing weekdays, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. CT, and on performance days and evenings. For a full schedule of the center’s events, visit www.glemacenter.org.

Made to be Played: Traditional Art of Kentucky Luthiers was originally funded through an American Masterpieces grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Touring support is provided by the Kentucky Arts Council. For information about scheduling the exhibit for public display in your community, contact Mark Brown, folklife specialist, at mark.brown@ky.gov or (502) 564-1792, ext. 4491.

3rd Annual Jazz Education Conference in Louisville



Kentucky will host the 3rd Annual Jazz Education Network Conference at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, January 4-7, 2012. The Jazz Education Network (JEN) is a global membership organization that is dedicated to building the jazz arts community by advancing education, promoting performance and developing new audiences. The theme this year is *Developing New Jazz Audiences Today*.

The conference will feature performances, workshops, clinics and concerts by jazz performers and educators. Many regional groups and presenters will be featured at the conference, along with outreach concerts and clinics to area schools provided by groups and clinicians who are participating in the conference. TI:ME, an organization dedicated to technology in music education, will hold its annual conference in conjunction with JEN. The conference also will feature a research

component discussing current research in the field of jazz education and of audience development will.

The 2011 JEN conference, held in New Orleans, attracted over 2,300 people including educators and performers, entrepreneurs, exhibitors, journalists and media personnel, jazz enthusiasts and students of jazz. Outreach in New Orleans reached over 1,000 students in area schools and involved over 20 school and professional ensemble groups.

The Louisville conference will feature six performing stages with performances by middle school, high school, college and professional ensembles, four nights of great concerts and many educational clinics and workshops. Conference organizers are expecting over 3,000 participants. Featured artists will include the Army Jazz Ambassadors, bassist Victor Wooten and a 50th anniversary performance of Oliver Nelson’s signature recording, *Blues and the Abstract Truth*, featuring

Ron Carter, Benny Golson and Grady Tate.

The first evening concert on January 4 will feature a Kentucky flavor with area groups including the Louisville Leopard Percussionists, the Harry Pickens Trio and the University of Louisville Jazz Ensemble I with special guest soloist Jamey Aebersold.

There also will be outreach to 20-25 Kentucky and Indiana public schools via conference performing artists conducting outreach concerts and workshops that will impact over 2,000 area students. In addition, online, silent and live auctions will take place to support these organizational outreach efforts along with the organization’s scholarship programs.

For registration information go to: www.jazzednet.org or contact Jerry Tolson at the University of Louisville School of Music, (502) 852-6972 or jerry.tolson@louisville.edu.

Need to Know News

Call for Papers for NEA Symposium on Arts and Economic Development

In conjunction with the National Endowment for the Arts, a symposium on *The Arts, New Growth Theory and Economic Development* will be held in May 2012 in Washington, D.C. The symposium will bring together researchers to identify how new developments in economic growth theory over the last two decades might inform our understanding about whether arts-related investments play a role in stimulating economic activity at the local, regional and/or national levels. Such investments may include the creation of arts districts, the construction of performing arts centers and museums, and arts-favorable tax policies and other incentives for productivity and innovation in fields such as architecture and design, visual and performing arts, and literary and media arts.

Submissions: Researchers should send an abstract and contact information to Michael Rushton, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University at mirushto@indiana.edu by December 13.

New Research from the NEA on Artists in the Workforce

There are 2.1 million artists in the United States workforce, and a large portion of them contributes to industries whose products Americans use every day, according to new research from the National Endowment for the Arts. *Artists and Arts Workers in the United States* offers the first combined analysis of artists and industries,

Questions about arts education in Kentucky?

Contact Kentucky Department of Education Arts & Humanities Consultant

Robert Duncan

(502) 564-2106

robert.duncan@education.ky.gov

state and metro employment rates, and new demographic information such as age, education levels, income, ethnicity and other social characteristics.

This latest report builds on earlier NEA research – *Artists in the Workforce: 1990 - 2005* – which identified key traits that differentiated artists from other U.S. workers. That report found artists to be entrepreneurial (more likely to be self-employed) and more educated than the workforce at large. This

These resources come from various sources. For questions or concerns, contact those sources directly.

latest research confirms those earlier conclusions. It analyzes 11 distinct artist occupations and presents new data on employment patterns and freelance artists revealing more accurate totals for this mobile, entrepreneurial group of workers.

Applications Being Accepted for National Endowment for the Arts Program, The Big Read

The Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, is accepting applications from non-profit organizations to develop community-wide reading programs between September 2012 and June 2013.

Approximately 75 organizations

from across the country will be selected. The Big Read was created in 2006 to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and bring the transformative power of literature into the lives of its citizens, and also to encourage reading for pleasure and enlightenment. Organizations selected to participate in the Big Read will receive a grant, access to online training resources and opportunities, and educational and promotional materials designed to support widespread community involvement and participation.

To review the Guidelines & Application Instructions, visit the Big Read [website](http://www.thebigread.org). Questions? Call Arts Midwest at (612) 238-8010 or e-mail TheBigRead@artsmidwest.org.

Kennedy Center Receives Arts in Education National Program Grant

The John F. Kennedy Center has been awarded a grant under the U.S. Department of Education's Arts in Education National Program to provide arts and arts education experiences for students, teachers, families and the general public throughout the nation.

Each year, the center's educational programs directly serve more than 11 million people, including opportunities presented through the National Symphony Orchestra, the Washington National Opera and VSA.

Through the grant under the Arts in Education National Program, the Kennedy Center will implement educational programs in multiple schools, school districts and com-

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Need to Know News

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munities throughout the country through the following key areas:

- Teaching, Learning and Partnerships
- Performances and Events for Young Audiences
- Career Development for Young Artists

To learn more about the Kennedy Center program, please visit www.kennedy-center.org/education.

El Sistema Releases First Issue of Online Newsletter

El Sistema USA has launched a new online newsletter, *The Ensemble*, to present news, stories and information about and in support of El Sistema-inspired music programs based in the United States. El Sistema USA is a support and advocacy network for people and organizations inspired by Venezuela's monumental music education program. This newsletter aims to connect the many programs in the U.S. movement to gain strength and visibility. *The Ensemble* was initiated by Eric Booth, leading teaching artist, and is edited by Tricia Tunstall, an author and music educator. To subscribe to *The Ensemble* and request a copy of the first edition, send an e-mail request to TheEnsembleNL@gmail.com.

Whitney Museum of Art Offers Web Pages to Engage Kids with Art and Artists

The Whitney Museum of American Art is introducing *For Kids*, a new section of its website to engage

children ages 8 to 12 with art and artists. The For Kids Web pages encourage kids to think, create and experiment like artists. They also provide a place where kids can express their ideas about art and share their own artwork in a carefully moderated online community.

KET Additions to Teacher's Domain



KET has added a *Languages and Culture* collection to KET Teacher's Domain.

The first additions feature videos and activities adapted from the popular *iArte y más!* series.

Arts and social studies teachers may wish to view the new collections added for African, African-American, Native American, Kentucky Appalachian, Japanese, and Renaissance cultures. Also, new collections of resources to teach history with the arts in Drama Based on Historical Characters and Civil War Era are available.

Register and log in to KET Teachers' Domain at the KET EncycloMedia homepage. More language and culture collections to come.

KyAEA Recognitions

The Kentucky Art Education Association recognized the following individuals for their accomplishments in art education:

- Elementary Teacher of the Year, Kelli Combs (Warren Co.)
- Middle School Teacher of the Year, Gena Maley (Murray Ind.)
- High School Teacher of the Year, Marilyn Peters (Washington Co.)
- Student of the Year, Amber

Raap (Eastern Kentucky University)

- Higher Educator of the Year, George Szekely (University of Kentucky)
- Administrator of the Year, Martha Setters (Kenton Co.)
- Educator of the Year, Camille Serre (Murray State University)

AEP Posts Fall Forum Summaries

Across the nation, a number of urban school systems are boldly experimenting with arts-based models of whole school reform. Research and evaluation results suggest that these initiatives are revitalizing schools and positively impacting students' lives. Such programs demonstrate that arts education can engage students and move them toward success in school, work, and life; energize teaching and school leadership; and once again make our schools the dynamic and vibrant hubs of community engagement.

The Arts Education Partnership held its fall forum in San Francisco during National Arts in Education Week for a national conversation about how arts learning can help reclaim our urban school systems and re-engineer the future of America's cities. For a summary of the many sessions, go to www.aep-arts.org/forums/SF2011.htm.

Save the Date...

The AEP Spring 2012 National Forum will be held in Washington, DC on Thursday and Friday, April 12-13, 2012, at the Renaissance Washington, D.C. Dupont Circle Hotel. Announcements about small group session RFPs, graduate student volunteers, registration information and more will follow in future issues.

Need to Know News

Academic Value of Electives and Extracurricular Activities Teach Adult Skills

Margo Gardner, a research scientist at Columbia University, reported that the odds of students attending college were 97 percent higher for youngsters who took part in school-sponsored activities for two years than for those who didn't do any school activities. The odds of those students completing college were 179 percent higher. Access the report at <http://educationnext.org/academic-value-of-non-academics/>.

Music Scholarships at Southwest Mississippi Community College

Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit, Miss. is expanding the band program by reaching to out-of-state students with extra scholarships. Students selected for these scholarships must have an ACT score of 18+. Students should have a desire to study music or be skilled on a woodwind, brass, percussion, stringed or keyboard instrument. For more information, contact Andrew Dale, Director of Bands, at (601) 276-3749 or at Andrew.Dale@smcc.edu.

TIP Grant Deadline Looming

The opportunity to collaborate with a professional artist using the Kentucky Arts Council's Teacher Initiated Program (TIP) grant is seven weeks away. Please do not wait until the last minute to begin the application process. The application is available on the KAC website: <http://artscouncil.ky.gov/Grants/TIP.htm>

This grant is for public or private schools K-12. Teachers work with

professional artists to apply for a residency that they create together based on the needs of their school or classroom. It is a matching grant where the Kentucky Arts Council pays 65 percent of the artist fee, and the school or district provides the remaining 35 percent.

This is an excellent opportunity for students. Talk to your principal now about the possibility of applying for a TIP grant. Working with guest artists provides evidence for the arts and humanities Program Review.

Please take a moment to look over the [teaching artist directory](#) to see who you may want to collaborate with. **The application deadline is January 15.**

Contact Rachel Allen at KAC if you have questions. (502) 564-3757 x 473 or Rachel.allen@ky.gov



Advocacy White Papers for Art Education Look on the [National Art Education Association](#) website for a collection of 14 essays written in response to the NAEA report, *Learning in a Visual Age: The Critical Importance of Visual Arts Education*. These essays communicate the value of visual arts education in a constantly changing educational environment and demonstrate why visual arts education is important for meeting each student's educational needs. We urge you to share the *White Papers for Art Education* with colleagues, policy makers, supervisors and administrators, preservice art educators, and parents.

NDEO Professional Development

The National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) is preparing the

next generation of learners through its new Online Professional Development Institute (OPDI) that offers a broad range of online dance education courses. Participants will be able to obtain CEUs or accumulate credits towards a Certificate in Dance. **However, before registering for any of the courses, you must apply for admission to the OPDI via an online application submission form, [click here](#).** After you have applied and been accepted, you will be sent a link via e-mail to register for the first OPDI course - the Professional Teaching Standards for Dance Arts. For more information on NDEO's OPDI and the Online Admission Application please go to www.ndeo.org/opdi. The application deadline is December 16.

AEP State Policy Data Base

The State Policy Data Base is up and running on the Arts Education Partnership (AEP) website. You can find the data base at <http://www.aep-arts.org/database/index.htm>. This searchable database contains the latest information on arts education state policies and practices. Since 1999, AEP has gathered these data through a biennial survey of arts education personnel in state education agencies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Users can generate reports for individual states, or use the drop-down menus to generate 50-state reports on particular topics as well as state-to-state comparisons. Also, the database provides users with links they can follow to get additional information about each state. To learn more about a particular state, users are encouraged to visit the state Department of Education website or contact, where available, the state Department of Education contact person.

